

ADDITIONAL FEE:

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R E M A R K S

The Office Action issued June 3, 2010 has been received and its contents have been carefully considered.

Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to remove the final "thereby" clause which was added to these claims by way of applicants' Amendment dated December 5, 2008. This final clause adds no structural limitations or features to these claims.

In order ensure that these amendments to these independent claims are entered in this application, applicants submit herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Applicant's wish to thank the Examiner in charge of this application, Dr. Phillip A. Johnston, for the courtesy and cooperation he extended applicants' undersigned counsel during the telephone interviews kindly granted on July 28 and on August 3, 2010. During these interviews the subject matter of the present invention and the prior art patents to

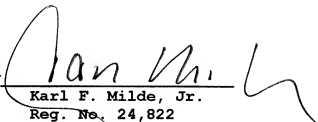
Schultz, Orloff and Leibl were thoroughly discussed, but it did not appear possible to resolve of the issues in this case. Applicants' appreciate Examiner's good faith effort in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution, as well as his constructive suggestions for amending the independent claims; however, applicants' continue to believe that the core invention, as originally claimed, is eminently patentable and non-obvious over the teaching in the art at the time this invention was made.

If finally rejected, after the present amendments to the claims are entered, applicants intend to seek an appeal to the USPTO Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

All the claims in this application, namely claims 1-7, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Schultz, in view of the patents to Orloff and Leibl. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons previously stated in applicants' Responses to the various prior Office Actions in this case: reasons which were summarized and discussed during the aforementioned telephone interviews with the Examiner on July 28 and August 3, 2010.

This application is therefore believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. A formal Notice of Allowance is accordingly respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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